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STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Addendum

Contribution from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)

The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to the report of the International Symposium on Human rights in Cambodia (30 November - 2 December 1992) contained in document E/CN.4/1993/19/Add.1.

In addition, the Committee has before it the contribution from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, intitled "UNTAC - An experiment in human rights protection" which is reproduced below.

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UNTAC - An experiment in human rights protection

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The **Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict**, signed in Paris by the four Cambodian political factions on October 23, 1991, recognize that "Cambodia's tragic recent past requires special measures to assure protection of human rights, and the non-return to the policies and practices of the past."

2. Guided by this principle, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) - the body set up to guide Cambodia to elections - has applied an innovative and far-reaching human rights programme. This has been aimed primarily at laying the human rights foundation for a free and fair election. Hopefully, it will also lay the basis for human rights protection after UNTAC has left the country.

3. The UNTAC model may be unique to Cambodia, but it deserves careful study. Human rights is playing an increasingly important role in what Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali describes as "peace-making." The international community has shown itself increasingly prepared to experiment with new approaches.

4. Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Cambodia, put it as follows, in his opening address to the first-ever United Nations sponsored human rights conference to be held in Cambodia (November 30 - December 2, 1992):

> "The entrusting of an operational and intrusive human rights mandate to the United Nations, as an integral part of a peace agreement in order to facilitate national reconciliation and self-determination is a new development with broad ramifications. This is a new dimension for both United Nations peacekeeping operations and its human rights activities."

5. Building human rights firmly into a comprehensive package like UNTAC, carries special advantages. It means that human rights monitoring and training are accepted by all parties to the former conflict, and it allows the human rights specialists to draw on the assistance of other UNTAC Components, notably Civilian Police and Military.

6. 1992 was not an easy year for Cambodia. Implementation of the Paris Peace Accords has not been a smooth process. In particular, one of the four Cambodian factions has consistently withheld cooperation from virtually all aspects of the peace plan. Towards

the end of 1992, UNTAC's Human Rights Component registered an increase in acts of intimidation and violence, and apparently politically and racially-motivated killings.

7. Nonetheless, an important start has been made in helping to create an environment, and a structure, in which human rights can once again feature in Cambodia. The prison system has been rationalised, and prison conditions improved. UNTAC staff are training lawyers, judges, magistrates and police. UNTAC has drafted a set of provisions that set up an interim judiciary, criminal code and criminal procedures during the run-up to elections. For the first time in its history, Cambodia has the beginnings of a system of independent public defenders.

8. These and other intitiatives are helping to nurture a Cambodian human rights movement. Five Cambodian human rights groups are now active, and more are on their way. There is little doubt that Cambodians are impatient for a return to the rule of law. They are moving forwards towards building a civil society.

9. This report will look at some of the more innovative elements of UNTAC's human rights work, in the firm conviction that it is a valuable experiment in the protection of human rights within the context of peace-making and peace-keeping.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

10. Human rights has special significance in Cambodia - a country that has suffered from massive human rights violations and military intervention in recent decades.

11. As mentioned earlier, the Paris Agreements, signed on October 23, 1991, aimed to prevent a return to the policies and practices of the past. But they were also drafted with the future in mind. In Cambodia this has meant starting from scratch. In 1979, there were only ten law graduates left in the country. Throughout much of the 1980s, there was no system of adjudication in some parts of the country, and else-where basic legal rights (to defense, to appeal, to trial) were non-existent.

12. It is clear that Cambodia's only chance of preventing future abuses lies in creating a firm respect for the rule of law. This will involve building an independent functioning judiciary, rationalising the police, and nurturing a Cambodian human rights movement.

13. But it has also meant restoring the confidence of Cambodians. They need to be assured that abuses will not go unpunished, and that the very concept of rights will be respected. They also need

to be encouraged to insist on their rights. Given the country's past, this will not be easy. As the representative of Vigilance, one of the newest Cambodian human rights groups put it in a moving statement to the November 30 Symposium: "Our recent past, oppressive beyond endurance, has consolidated the Khmer personality into obedience and fear."

III. UNTAC'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMPONENT - MANDATE AND STRUCTURE

14. UNTAC was set up to ensure a neutral environment in Cambodia during the transitional period to elections, which are scheduled to take place by May 1993. This has meant fostering an environment which will ensure respect for human rights - during and after the transitional period.

15. There is, perhaps inevitably, an emphasis on civil and political rights - ensuring that the security of the person and freedoms of speech, assembly, and movement are respected; curbing violations of the right to life and other forms of physical violence; and ensuring access to the media.

16. At the same time, UNTAC has been acutely aware that Cambodia's long-term reconstruction will not be achieved without meeting economic social and cultural needs.

17. Section E of the first annex of the Paris Agreements spells out how UNTAC's human rights mandate was to be achieved:

a) by developing and implementing a programme of human rights education;
b) by "general human rights oversight" during the transitional period; and
c) by investigating human rights complaints and where appropriate, taking "corrective action".

18. UNTAC's Human Rights Component is, in the words of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council (S/23613) of February 19, 1992, "modest" in size (1). This is because human rights is seen as integral to the work of the entire UNTAC staff. The Component is operational. It investigates complaints and can even propose "corrective action".

19. The Component comprises a staff of ten professionals in Phnom Penh, divided into two units: monitoring and investigation; and training, education and information. In addition, there are provincial human rights officers in each of the twenty-one provinces of Cambodia. One officer has been deployed in one of the faction-controlled zones. Additional staff and UNVs are likely to be deployed in early 1993.

Accession to International Human Rights Instruments.

20. Article 15 of the Paris Agreements contains an undertaking by Cambodia to adhere to international human rights instruments, and this commitment by all the factions gives UNTAC's Human Rights Component a starting point for its work.

21. The Component has presented the Supreme National Council (SNC) with seven instruments. The SNC signed the two International Human Rights Covenants on April 20, 1992.

22. On September 22, 1992, the SNC acceded to the following five international human rights instruments:

the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol.

23. Following the accession to the instruments, UNTAC has taken measures to help Cambodia fulfill its obligations. It has compiled all seven instruments, together with the two other main human rights instruments to which Cambodia is a party (the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination) and a selection of other instruments. These have been translated by the Cambodian Documentation Center into Khmer and will be widely disseminated to officials and activists.

24. Plans are also under way to train officials in the rather heavy reporting obligations on states parties to these instruments. Human Rights Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will be trained in monitoring government compliance.

IV. INFORMATION

25. The Component is engaged in a broad and comprehensive campaign of human rights education and information. This is aimed at the grass-roots as well as Cambodian leaders. Special efforts have been made to ensure that it is tailored to the realities of

Cambodian society.

26. A dozen "dialogues" have been written on human rights themes, performed by Cambodian actors and disseminated in the form of television and radio broadcasts and comic strips. The Component has prepared 6 television minidramas, 2 television news magazine programmes, numerous interviews for radio, 100,000 leaflets and 25,000 posters. Several news magazines of approximately 20 minutes have been devoted to human rights and "spot" radio announcements of one minute have reminded the public of specific rights and the availability of the investigation team to hear and act on their complaints. Hundreds of thousands of Khmer-language leaflets (explaining what human rights are and where to file complaints) have been distributed.

27. Much of this work involves close cooperation with UNTAC's Education and Information Division, which has built up extensive outreach to Cambodians, through local media (TV, radio and written press) and an UNTAC radio station. In addition, the Division prepares and distributes its own materials in Khmer. These services have proved particularly useful to the Human Rights Component, which has provided the Division with extensive human rights material.

28. The Component's own information specialists have taken advantage of traditional Khmer cultural mediums - singers, puppets, comics and local artists. A team of Ay-ai singers is giving 25 performances around the country. A project is in preparation using shadow puppet theatre.

V. FACT-FINDING AND MONITORING

A. Recent Violations.

29. While greatly improved on the past, the human rights climate in Cambodia has remained difficult. In a November 19 statement, Mr Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, expressed concern at reports that "political party workers have been subjected to intimidation threats and even physical violence by the authorities."

30. By mid-November 1992, the Component had received over 300 complaints at its office in Phnom Penh, and approximately the same number from the provinces. 118 involved land disputes; 112 harassment and intimidation; 63 wrongful imprisonment; 14 wrongful death; 5 destruction of property; 1 seizure of property; 5 cease-fire violations; and 8 injuries. There has been a recent increase

of killings, kidnappings and attacks on opposition party offices, as well as alleged politically motivated killings of party members in the provinces. Several incidents which received wide press publicity were directed against ethnic Vietnamese. Twenty-seven Vietnamese were abducted and murdered.

31. The need to ensure a neutral political environment for elections has meant that the Component's main preoccupation has been in curbing violations of civil and political rights. But Cambodia has still not begun to recover from the years of civil war and destruction, and many of its citizens are deprived of many of the rights and entitlements enshrined in the International Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. These are considered to be of the highest priority by the Component. The best statement of the country's economic needs can be found in the Secretary-General's US $ 590 million consolidated appeal of April that was prepared prior to the Tokyo Conference (June 22, 1992). This money was intended to meet Cambodia's rehabilitation needs prior to elections, including basic needs such as education, food, and health. The international community subsequently pledged US $ 880 million for long-term reconstruction as well as rehabilitation at the June 22, 1992, Conference in Tokyo.

B. Ethnic Minorities

32. Hostility and violence against the ethnic Vietnamese minority has caused destabilisation in Cambodia in the run-up to elections. The Component has repeatedly urged the SNC and individual factions to discourage statements inciting racial hatred, and protested when examples have appeared in faction bulletins.

33. UNTAC has also investigated three cases of egregious violence against ethnic Vietnamese. The report on Cambodia to the Security Council by the Secretary-General stated that two of these incidents appeared to be the work of the NADK (National Army of Democratic Kampuchea).

C. The Component's Mandate for Corrective Action

35. UNTAC is unique in being able to exercise "direct control" over five key areas of administration, supervise the Cambodian police, and use "corrective" action to address human rights abuses.

36. This gives the Component considerable scope in enforcing its mandate. This is done in several different ways. The Component can:

- Make recommendations for political, diplomatic or legal action to the Secretary-General's Special Representative. In one example, in April, villagers were killed after a

land dispute. The Special Representative intervened, and the villagers received compensation;

- Ask for an investigation by the existing authorities;

- Make a direct recommendation - for instance, that shackles be removed in prisons. (This order that has been largely complied with - see below);

- Work with other partners in UNTAC. This is one of the most innovative features of UNTAC. Which partner will depend on the circumstances of the case. Some examples:

(i) **Military Component.** The Human Rights Component has a working agreement with the Military Component to jointly investigate serious attacks against minorities, or when there might be security risks.

(ii) **CIVPOL.** In serious cases, such as killings or intimidation, the Component conducts a preliminary mission with Civilian Police (CIVPOL) and drafts a joint report within seven days. Any follow-up investigation is undertaken by CIVPOL and shared with the Human Rights Component.

(iii) **Civil Administration.** UNTAC's Civil Administration Component is responsible for ensuring a neutral climate in the transitional period. Under the Paris Agreements, "existing administrative structures" remain in place, but Civil Admininstration can nonetheless exercise "direct control" in five areas - foreign affairs, national defense, finance, public security, and information.

Controlling public security in particular gives Civil Administration the potential to address many violations. Under this, the Human Rights Component monitors abuses and recommends corrective action to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in line with the mandate. If agreed, Civil Administration is asked to implement the recommendation.

(iv) **Repatriation.** Since March 31, over 200,000 refugees have returned to Cambodia from the Thai border camps. Responsibility for their protection rests primarily with the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which has a team of four protection officers in Cambodia. As the number of returnees expands, monitoring becomes harder. UNHCR is coopting an ever-widening pool of groups and individuals into monitoring. The Human Rights Component has agreed to undertake periodic assessments with UNHCR of the basic human rights situation of returnees in Cambodia.

VI. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TRAINING AND EDUCATION

37. Human rights education was described by the Secretary-General's February 19 report to the Security Council at the "cornerstone of UNTAC's activities in fostering respect for human rights." In light of this, the Component's education work has been conceived quite broadly to cover formal and informal, as well as the non-formal education described above (working through the media).

38. **Formal education** refers to educational activities within the school system. At the primary and secondary school levels, the Component has produced a set of curricular materials that have been distributed throughout the country for use in the civic education programme.

39. Provincial . an rights officers are meeting with teachers at the school level and with staff of regional teacher training colleges to help them introduce these materials. This arrangement applies to the SOC-controlled areas. In the zones under the control of two of the other factions, the same materials are being used directly by the Provincial Human Rights Officers.

40. Human rights is also being introduced into the curriculum of the University of Phnom Penh. A weekly course of four hours began on October 27 at the law school for 210 students, and a lecture series is being organized for the other institutions of higher learning. Human rights is being introduced in other specialized courses, for example journalism.

41. **Informal Education** refers to education outside of the school system - for example, special groups that are particularly influential in the society. The Component conducts training for three broad categories:

a) officials of existing administrative structures (police, judges, prosecutors, party officials, administrative officials of various ministries, etc.);

b) UNTAC staff (Civil Police, District Electoral Supervisors, Provincial Human Rights Officers and their training assistants, etc.); and

c) professional or activist groups (human rights associations, women's groups, health professionals, journalists, etc.).

42. Informal education, particularly for more elaborate training activities, aims to reach particularly the human rights

associations, justice officials and the police. A set of "modules" has been prepared and distributed to the Provincial Human Rights Officers allowing them flexibility in scheduling briefings and training activities. Large numbers of such meetings have taken place in most of the provinces.

43. The content of training and briefings varies depending on the target group. For human rights associations, for example, training has covered the history and content of international human rights standards. Training for defenders in court, for the police, and for magistrates focuses on the Provisions Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure.

International Meetings

44. Between November 30 and December 2, 1992, the Component hosted the first-ever UN-sponsored conference on human rights to be held in Cambodia ("International Symposium on Human Rights in Cambodia"). The Symposium attracted over 40 participants from Cambodian human rights groups, international human rights campaigners and officials from the United Nations.

45. The Symposium led to several concrete offers of support in the fields of election monitoring, training, education, and measures to improve the functioning of courts, including defenders, and law enforcement consistent with human rights. Many of these offers came from Asian human rights groups. While several have yet to be finalised and confirmed, these offers could result in:

- international monitors assisting Cambodian human rights groups in the provinces, and serving as a form of protection by their presence;

- training Cambodian judges and defenders;

- training local human rights groups in the use of UN mechanisms and the role that NGOs can play in the work of the treaty monitoring bodies;

- assisting Cambodian human rights groups to attend the 1993 session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva;

- sending a regional expert to train local Cambodian human rights groups in reporting and documenting human rights violations;

- helping to train Cambodian human rights groups to monitor the upcoming elections;

- undertaking a study of ethnic minorities in Cambodia;

- support by the UN Centre for Human Rights for a range of issues, including training courses for police and government officials under the Centre's Advisory Services programme.

46. In October, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Cambodia launched an appeal for $1.67 million to support training and education programmes. To date, Sweden and the Netherlands have announced substantial contributions. Previously, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom also contributed to the Component's activities.

VII. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

47. As explained above, a prime goal of UNTAC's Human Rights Component has been to create the conditions in which free and fair elections can take place. Mr. Dennis McNamara, Director of the Component, told the November 30 Symposium that a basic level of respect for human rights was a "sine qua non" for holding elections.

48. This level will need to be in place if the United Nations is to certify that free and fair elections have taken place in Cambodia, which is UNTAC's prime responsibility.

49. Annex 3 of the Paris Agreements states: "the freedoms of speech, assembly and movement will be fully respected. All registered political parties will enjoy fair access to the media, including the press, television and radio."

Electoral Component

50. As part of the preparations for elections, UNTAC's Electoral Component has established a unit to investigate violations of the electoral law, which aims to ensure free and fair elections. One example might be an attack on party headquarters, or incitement to racial hatred. As well as violating the electoral law, and interfering with elections, these could represent abuses of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and also UNTAC's draft provisions relating to criminal law. (see below). The Human Rights and Electoral Components have agreed on joint investigations in such case.

United Nations Volunteers

51. Some 400 UNs are now in place throughout Cambodia, working in preparations for the elections. All went through a human rights briefing before they left Phnom Penh, and are disseminating human rights material as well as electoral information.

52. It is hoped that twenty UNVs will soon join the Human Rights Component, to assist its field activities.

VIII. WORKING WITH CAMBODIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

53. The International Symposium on Human Rights in Cambodia represented a major effort to introduce Cambodia's new human rights groups to groups from the Asian region and elsewhere. The Symposium was widely considered a success. Participants left feeling that a partnership had been forged.

54. The following Cambodian groups participated at the Symposium:

- **Human Rights and Community Outreach;**
- **Cambodian Human Rights Association (ADHOC);**
- **Human Rights Vigilance);**
- **Ligue Cambodgienne Pour La Defense et la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme - LICADHO);**
- **the Khmer Students Association.**

55. In spite of their expanding membership, these groups remain - on their own admission - weak and vulnerable. At present, they limit their activity to dissemination and education. But membership is soaring, and this symposium may help to build the kind of network that will enable them to move into monitoring and investigations. Many concrete suggestions were made as to how this could be achieved.

56. The Human Rights Component has helped the four local groups with a small administrative grant to cover start-up costs, and with funds to help publications. The groups have regular access to UNTAC videos. The Component has provided facilities for them and will shortly open a small resource centre, with financial support from the Australian government, which will be available for use by these groups.

57. Members of the four groups regularly attend Component training courses. They in turn provide important feed-back to the Component about the effectiveness of UNTAC information material and programmes.

Expatriate non-governmental organisations working in Cambodia

58. The component has set up a working committee with several expatriate NGOs (Church World Service, Jesuit Refugee Service, CIDSE, Oxfam, PACT, Cooperation Committee of Cambodia - CCC).

Others have expressed an interest in joining. The main aim of this committee is to review the options for promoting human rights after elections and assisting future involvement by the UN Human Rights Centre.

IX. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

59. The weakness of the rule of law, and its implications for human rights protection, were noted above. The judicial structure collapsed completely in 1975. Today, some parts of Cambodia still lack any formal system of adjudication. Elsewhere, there has been no serious attempt to rebuild the judiciary. The vacuum that this has created has given rise to the police usurping judicial powers and so further weakening the judiciary.

60. On September 10, 1992, the Supreme National Council adopted a set of Provisions Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure Applicable in Cambodia During the Transitional Period, despite the objections of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea.

61. These transitional provisions establish procedures for arrest and detention consistent with United Nations standards. They also reform the judiciary to provide for independence of magistrates, the possibility of appeal and conditions of a fair trial. In addition, the provisions set out and define nine crimes, and twenty-six misdemeanours with their respective punishments.

62. Law and order and public security generally fall under the purview of UNTAC's Civil Administration Component, which took the lead in drafting the provisions. The Human Rights Component provided direct advice and input on issues of the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, abuse of police powers, and the rights of the defense.

63. The provisions mark a major step forward towards creating respect for the rule of law. They also provide the Human Rights Component with a legal yardstick in the administration of justice, including such work as improving conditions in prisons.

A. Training

64. It is also clear, however, that the new provisions cannot be implemented overnight, particularly when there is such a shortage of trained judges, prosecutors and lawyers. As a result, UNTAC has initiated a major programme of training for three categories: judges, defense lawyers/defenders; and police. This programme is very much a cooperative effort, with Civil Administration taking the lead in training judges and prosectors, CIVPOL coordinating the police training, and Human Rights Component training defenders.

65. The first course for sixty defenders took place between November 16 and November 27 at the Component's conference room. Each of the factions was invited to send five participants. The PDK (Party of Democratic Kampuchea) declined to reply; all the other factions complied. In addition, each of the four human rights groups provided 10 participants.

66. The goal of these courses is to train people as defenders even though they may not have legal qualifications. Because of the small number of lawyers in Cambodia, the transitional provisions provide that anyone who has completed a secondary school education can represent an accused person. The accused can also ask a family member to represent them, regardless of educational qualifications.

B. Prison Reform

67. Article 15 of the Paris Agreements states that the rights embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights shall be enjoyed by all Cambodians. The Universal Declaration outlaws "cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment." In addition, the Paris Agreements give the Component a duty to investigate and monitor, as well as take "corrective action."

68. This has given the Component a solid mandate to monitor and improve prison conditions. Almost all of this work has occurred within territory controlled by the State of Cambodia, although human rights officials recently started intensive programmes in the KPLNF and FUNCINPEC zones.

69. To date, human rights officers have visited all three major prisons in Phnom Penh; all twenty-one provincial prisons; most district prisons; and a number of police holding cells at the commune/district level.

70. Prison visits began in June and confirmed most of the concerns that have been raised by international human rights groups. These included overcrowding, the use of shackles, detention in dark cells and malnutrition. In addition, the system of prison management was exceptionally disorganised - making conditions even harder for detainees.

71. These concerns were put to the authorities and produced a swift response. A directive ordered all shackles removed from prisoners, and a Prison Control Commission was set up to review the component's suggestions. The Commission also reviewed the cases of all inmates in the prisons controlled by the Municipal Police in Phnom Penh. 140 prisoners were released on August 29 and September 2, 1992, from the P J and T 3 prisons. The Commission has also rationalised the organization and control of the prison system. UNTAC's Human Rights Component has repeatedly made it clear its view that prisoners who are a threat to public safety or security should not be released, but should be charged and tried.

72. The Component has found that prison conditions have measurably improved since the first visits. Health conditions are better; prison management has been simplified; prisoners are no longer shackled; cells are cleaner, ventilated and have better light.

73. The International Committee of the Red Cross has regular and free access to sick prisoners; the Component has initiated a program of supplementary feeding in prisons with the ICRC, World Food Programme and UNTAC's Civil Admninistration.

74. This dialogue between the Component and the local authorities is seen as constructive and fruitful, although there has been some recent slippage. One major concern continues to be the number of prisoners still awaiting trial, as a result of the shortcomings in the judicial system noted earlier. This underlines the importance of judicial reform and training.

75. The Paris Agreements call for the release of all political prisoners by the factions. Three of the four factions have stated that all political prisoners have been released. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea has stated that it holds no political prisoners, but the Component has been unable to verify this claim.

X. COORDINATION WITH THE REST OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

76. The **World Food Programme** has provided, at UNTAC's request, food for a supplementary emergency feeding programme for malnourished prisoners in local jails (See below).

77. The Human Rights Component runs a project with **UNESCO** to promote human rights concepts through cultural activities (including comics and songs). The component has sponsored a three-month tour of the provinces by a musical drama group from the Phnom Penh School of Fine Arts.

UNICEF

78. The Component has agreed with UNICEF to: collaborate in disseminating information on the two conventions on the rights of children and Women (which are UNICEF's responsibility); and to jointly train Cambodians to prepare regular reports for the various treaty bodies, as required by ratification of the human rights instruments (see below).

79. **The UN Centre for Human Rights,** through its programme of technical assistance and advisory services, has provided UNTAC with funds to print educational materials and produce audio/visual material. It has also arranged for the relevant human rights instruments to be translated, and provided background documents and

literature for the UNTAC programme.

80. The Centre recently sent a week-long fact-finding mission to Cambodia to examine how it might play a role in Cambodia post-UNTAC. The Centre has also requested information for the Rapporteur on arbitary and summary executions, who reports to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the General Assembly.

81. On August 12, 1992, the Director of the Human Rights Component addressed the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities in Geneva. The Sub-Commission subsequently adopted a resolution expressing support for Cambodian human rights groups and inviting the United Nations Secretary-General to develop "long-term comprehensive programmes of technical assistance" in the field of human rights (2).

82. The **International Labour Organization** has a major human rights mandate to promote and protect human rights, and Cambodia is a party to International Labour Organization Convention 29, which forbids forced labour.

Reporting

83. Security Council resolution 745 establishing UNTAC, called for human rights to be included in the regular report of the Secretary-General to the United Nations Security Council. The Component contributes to these reports.

XI. CONCLUSION

84. UNTAC's human rights work marks a new direction in the protection of human rights, and the formula will no doubt be closely studied by the World Conference. It depends, however, on cooperation from the Cambodian political factions, and support from outside. As noted earlier, the political and military climate in Cambodia has remained tense throughout much of 1992. An important start has been made during the transitional period. UNTAC's Human Rights Component has learned many valuable efforts and helped to reintroduce human rights into Cambodian life once again. But it should not be forgotten that the best guarantee of human rights in Cambodia is peace. In this respect, progress by the Human Rights Component is crucially linked to the broad peace process in Cambodia.

Footnotes:

(1) Report of the Secretary-General on Cambodia, February 19

(S/23613).

(2) Sub-Commission resolution 1992/17.